

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 SAB-01 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7335

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FOR HOWARD, ARA/PAN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: MATERIAL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

REF: PANAMA 2416

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENT MODIFIES INFORMATION PROVIDED PARAS
8-9 OF REFTTEL CONCERNING CURRENT STATUS OF GOP-BUSINESS
CONFRONTATION.

2. EVENING "EL PANAMA AMERICA" FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6 CARRIED
GOP ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT 60 YOUNG LEADERS FROM COMMERCIAL,
BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND TWO
FULL DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS APRIL 11-13 AT RIO HATO MILITARY BASE
WITH RANKING OFFICIALS OF GOP AND NATIONAL GUARD. ANNOUNCED
PURPOSE OF MEETING WILL BE FOR ALL TO PARTICIPATE IN A BROAD
AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL,
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TOPICS WHICH ARE EQUALLY OF INTEREST TO
ALL PANAMANIAN. ANNOUNCEMENT STATES THAT LIST OF THOSE TO BE
INVITED IS BEING PREPARED BY VICE PRESIDENT CONZALEZ, AND THAT,
IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS MEETING, IT IS EXPECTED THAT
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CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT GEN. TORRIJOS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT COVERED IN MORNING PRESS WEDNESDAY
APRIL 7. SUMMARY TRANSMITTED FI/PANAMA PA 071957Y.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM LIMITED COVERAGE TO DATE, MOST INTERESTING
POINT ABOUT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS INDICATION THAT YOUNGER
MEMBERS OF PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE INVITED INDIVIDUALLY, RATHER
THAN GOP UTILIZING ESTABLISHED PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS
SUCH AS CONEP AS CHANNEL. THIS APPEARS TO US AS BOTH AN HONEST
GOP ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN ITS DIALOG WITH THE
PRIVATE SECTOR AND, TO SOME EXTENT, AN ATTEMPT TO DELIBERATELY
AVOID OVEREMPHASIZING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH OPPOSED IT DURING
JANUARY CONFRONTATION AND WHICH HAVE BEEN CALLING PUBLICLY
FOR RETURN OF THE JANUARY EXILES EVER SINCE. AS YET, WE HAVE
NO INDICATION BEYOND TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO JUST WHO FROM
THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE INVITED. END COMMENT.
JORDEN

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